

1 **1.** (currently amended) A method of migrating from configuration m of a system to a
 2 configuration $m+1$ thereof, the system's configuration being defined by first configuration
 3 tables in a database and

4 the method comprising the steps performed by the system of:

5 making second configuration tables that define configuration $m+1$;

6 getting an approval by an approving user of one or more users of the system for
 7 the migration;

8 making a determination whether the first configuration tables still define
 9 configuration m ; and

10 if the first configuration tables still define configuration m , using the second
 11 configuration tables to modify the first configuration tables such that the first
 12 configuration tables define configuration $m+1$.

1 **2.** (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

2 making a snapshot of the first configuration tables prior to making the second
 3 configuration tables, the snapshot not being a copy of the first configuration tables but
 4 permitting detection of changes in the first configuration tables; and

5 in the step of making a determination, the snapshot is used to make the
 6 determination.

1 **3.** (original) The method set forth in claim 2 wherein:

2 the snapshot is compared with the first configuration tables.

1 **4.** (original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein

2 the step of making second configuration tables comprises the steps of:

3 making a copy of the first configuration tables; and

4 modifying the copy.

1 **5.** (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 4 further comprising the step of:
 2 making a snapshot of the first configuration tables when the copy is made, the
 3 snapshot not being a copy of the first configuration tables but permitting detection of
 4 changes in the first configuration tables; and
 5 in the step of making a determination, the snapshot is used to make the
 6 determination.

1 **6.** (original) The method set forth in claim 5 wherein:
 2 in the step of making a determination, the snapshot is compared with the first
 3 configuration tables.

1 **7.** (original) The method set forth in claim 4 wherein:
 2 the step of making a copy of the first configuration tables is part of a step of
 3 copying the database; and
 4 the method further includes the step of testing the copied database with
 5 configuration $m+1$.

1 **8.** (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 4 wherein
 2 the system performs the method under control of a user of one or more users of the
 3 system; and
 4 the method further comprises the step of:
 5 having any other user log off before the step of making a copy of the first
 6 configuration tables.

1 **9.** (original) The method set forth in claim 8 further comprising the step of:
 2 also having any other user log off before the step of making a determination.

1 **10.** (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein
 2 the system performs the method under control of a user of one or more users of
 3 the system and

4 the method further comprises the steps performed when the comparison indicates
 5 that the first configuration tables no longer define configuration *m* of:
 6 notifying the user that the first configuration tables no longer define configuration
 7 *m*; and
 8 if the user so indicates, overwriting the first configuration tables with the second
 9 configuration tables.

1 **11.** (original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:
 2 in the step of using the second configuration tables to modify the first
 3 configuration tables, the first configuration tables are modified record-by-record.

1 **12.** (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 11 wherein
 2 the system performs the method under control of a user of one or more users of
 3 the system and
 4 the method further comprises the steps performed when the comparison indicates
 5 that the first configuration tables no longer define configuration *m* of:
 6 notifying the user that the first configuration tables no longer define configuration
 7 *m*; and
 8 if the user so indicates, overwriting the first configuration tables with the second
 9 configuration tables.

1 **13.** (canceled)

1 | **14.** (currently amended) The method set forth in claim ~~13~~1 wherein:
 2 the step of getting the approval is performed prior to the step of making a
 3 determination.

1 **15.** (original) The method of claim 14 wherein:
 2 the step of getting the approval is performed immediately prior to the step of
 3 making a determination.

1 **16.** (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein

2 the system performs the method under control of a user of one or more users of
3 the system; and

4 the method further comprises the step of:

5 having any other user log off before the step of making a determination.

1 **17.** (original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2 the database further includes a configuration change tracking table; and

3 in the step of using the second configuration tables to modify the first
4 configuration tables, the modifications to the first configuration tables are recorded in the
5 configuration change tracking table.

1 **18.** The method set forth in claim 17 wherein:

2 the modifications are recorded in the configuration change table together with an
3 indication that they were made during a migration from one configuration to another.

1 **19.** (currently amended) Apparatus employed in a system having a processor and a
2 database which includes first configuration tables that define a configuration m of the
3 system to migrate the system to a configuration $m+1$ thereof,

4 the apparatus comprising:

5 a copy of the first configuration tables; ~~and~~

6 a snapshot table which can be used by the processor to detect whether the first
7 configuration tables still define configuration m ,

8 a signoff table in the database which indicates one or more approving users of one
9 or more users of the system, the approving users' approval being required before the
10 configuration m can be migrated to the configuration $m+1$; and

11
12 the processor operating under control of a user of the system to modify the copy of the
13 first configuration tables to produce second configuration tables that define configuration
14 $m+1$, compare the first configuration tables with the snapshot table to determine whether
15 the first configuration tables still define configuration m , and if the first configuration

tables do so, use the second configuration tables to modify the first configuration tables so that the first configuration tables define configuration $m+1$, the processor further operating under control of the user to obtain approval from each of the approving users before using the second configuration tables to modify the first configuration tables.

20. (original) The apparatus set forth in claim 19 wherein
when the first configuration tables no longer define configuration m , the processor operates to notify the user thereof and to respond to an indication from the user to so do by overwriting the first configuration tables with the second configuration tables.

21. (original) The apparatus set forth in claim 19 further comprising:
a copy of the database, the copied database including the copy of the first configuration tables,
the processor further operating under control of the user to test configuration $m+1$ using the second configuration tables and the copied database.

22. (original) The apparatus set forth in claim 19 wherein:
the processor operates under control of the user to make the snapshot table when the copy of the first configuration tables is made.

23. (original) The apparatus set forth in claim 19 wherein:
the processor operates under control of the user to log any other users of the database off before making the copy of the first configuration tables and also before comparing the first configuration tables with the snapshot table.

24. (canceled)

25. (original) The apparatus set forth in claim 19 further comprising:
a configuration change tracking table in the database; and
the processor further recording the modifications to the first configuration tables in the configuration change tracking table.

1 **26.** (currently amended) A data storage device, characterized in that:

2 the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor performs the
3 method set forth in claim 1.~~a~~

4 ~~method of migrating from configuration m of a system to a configuration $m+1$ thereof, the~~
5 ~~system's configuration being defined by first configuration tables in a database and~~
6 ~~the method comprising the steps of:~~

7 — ~~making second configuration tables that define configuration $m+1$;~~

8 — ~~making a determination whether the first configuration tables still define configuration~~
9 ~~m ; and~~

10 — ~~if the first configuration tables still define configuration m , using the second~~
11 ~~configuration tables to modify the first configuration tables such that the first configuration~~
12 ~~tables define configuration $m+1$.~~

1 **27.** (new) A method of migrating from configuration m of a system to a configuration
2 $m+1$ thereof, the system's configuration being defined by first configuration tables in a
3 database, the database further including a configuration change tracking table, and
4 the method comprising the steps performed by the system of:

5 making second configuration tables that define configuration $m+1$;

6 making a determination whether the first configuration tables still define
7 configuration m ;

8 if the first configuration tables still define configuration m , using the second
9 configuration tables to modify the first configuration tables such that the first
10 configuration tables define configuration $m+1$; and

11 recording any modification to the first configuration tables in the configuration
12 change tracking table together with an indication that the modification was made during a
13 migration from one configuration to another.